(ख) क्या यात्रियों की बढ़ती हुई संख्या को ध्यान में रखते हुए बसों की संख्या में वृद्धि करने संबंधी कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

जल भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदीश टाइटलर) : (क) ब्यौरे इस प्रकार हैं :–

दि.प.नि. बसें (केवल नगर बसें)	निजी बसें
3910	606

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Steps to deal with communal tension

*119. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that communal tensions followed by the Violent clashes ending in mass scale deaths are periodical occurrences in certain places of the country such as Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Meerut, Bhagalpur, etc.;

(b) what concrete effective precautionary steps are on the anvial to arrest such situations;

(c) whether there is any special task force under reserve to deal with such situations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) to (d) There have been instances of communal clashes in the past in certain places such as Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Meerut, Bhagalpur, etc. Maintenance of public order being a State subject, suitable steps are to be taken by the State Governments for preventing and controlling such situations. All possible assistance in terms of arms, equipment, para-military forces etc. is made available by the Government of India for this purpose. Detailed and comprehensive guidelines have also been issued to the State Governments from time to time to promote communal harmony.

Rapid Action Force is being set up to deal with communal riots and riot-like situation by converting 10 Bns. of Central Reserve Police Force into Rapid Action Force.

Suicides in Pondicherry

*120. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Territory of Pondicherry has registered the highest annual suicide rate in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any survey to find out the reasons therefor; and

(d) if so, what are the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The annual suicide rate in Pondicherry during the last 3 years has been as follows:

Year	Suicides per lakh of population
1988	56.3
1989	63.2
1990	64.5

(c) and (d) Government of Pondicherry has decided to engage a team of experts from Osmania University

and the Department of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development to conduct a specialised study into the cases of suicides to find out reasons for the high suicide rate and suggest remedial measures.

Felling of trees

584. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
DR. Z. A. AHMAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the unabated unlawful felling of trees from the forests all over the country;

(b) if so, what is the estimated loss inflicted annually due to unauthorised felling of trees in different States, State-wise and year-wise for the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Forest Security guards are not properly equipped with arms, wireless, vehicles etc. to prevent the unlawful tree felling effectively; and

(d) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated loss inflicted annually due to unauthorised felling of trees as reported by the respective States/UTs Government is given in the Statement. (See below)

(c) and (d) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Development of Infrastructure for protection of forests against Biotic Interference' the State/UT Governments have been provided fund for purchase of arms, walkie-talkie sets and vehicles to prevent the unlawful tree felling.

Statement

S.No.	Name of State/UTs	The estimated financial loss inflicted annually due to unauthorised felling of trees reported by the respective State/UTs. Government	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
		(in Rupees)	
1	Andaman & Nicobar Island	96,500	
2	Gujarat	64,00,000	
3	Karnataka	2,47,80,423	
4	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	14,23,000	
5	Kerala	4,56,603	
6	Maharashtra	37,27,309	
7	Tripura	12,08,000	
8	Pondicherry	Nil	